LISTING OF CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all previous versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

1. (Currently amended) A database managing apparatus comprising:

attribution record group forming means for classifying data, which is requested to be stored into a database, according to attributions defined in the database, and for making plural attribution record groups corresponding to each of the attributions, wherein the plural attribution record groups include a search key attribution record group for determining if others of the plural attribution record groups are to be decompressed corresponding to each of the attributions;

data compressing means for compressing the plural attribution record groups in a unit of each of the plural attribution record groups; and

file forming means for combining each of the plural attribution record groups, which are compressed by the data compressing means, and for forming a data base file,

wherein the data compressing means compresses a particular the search key attribution record group, which is to be searched, with a first compression method, and compresses the other others of the plural attribution record groups, which are different from the particular search key attribution record group, with a second compression method,

the first compression method compresses the search key attribution record group so that the search key attribution record group after being compressed can be

decompressed faster than ~~that~~ <u>the others of the plural</u> attribution record groups

compressed by using the second compression method, and

the second compression method compresses the <u>others of the plural</u> attribution

record ~~group~~ <u>groups</u> so that a compression rate is higher than that of the first compression

method.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) A database managing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising

data decompressing means for decompressing a particular attribution record group, which

includes a target record to be retrieved, when a retrieve request for retrieving the target record

from the database file is received.

6-10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) A database managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the data compressing means further compresses a specific record string, which appears in the

<u>plural</u> attribution record groups <u>more</u> frequently ~~compared to the~~ <u>than</u> other record ~~string~~ <u>strings</u>,

to reduce a size of the <u>plural</u> attribution record groups.

12-18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) A method of managing database comprising:

an attribution record group forming step for classifying data, which is requested to be stored in a database, according to attributions defined in the database, and for making plural attribution record groups corresponding to each of the attributions, wherein the plural attribution record groups include a search key attribution record group for determining if others of the plural attribution record groups are to be decompressed;

a data compressing step for compressing the plural attribution record groups in a unit of each of the plural attribution record groups; and

a file forming step for combining each of the plural attribution record groups, which is compressed by the data compressing step, and for forming a data base file,

wherein the data compressing step compresses a particular attribution record group, which is to be searched, the search key attribution record group with a first compression method, and compresses the other others of the plural attribution record groups, which are different from the particular search key attribution record group, with a second compression method,

the first compression method compresses the search key attribution record group so that the search key attribution record group after being compressed can be decompressed faster than that the others of the plural attribution record groups compressed by using the second compression method, and

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the second compression method compresses the ~~attribution record group~~ others of the plural attribution record groups so that a compression rate is higher than that of the first compression method.

20-22. (Canceled)

23. (Original) A method of managing database according to claim 19, further comprising a data decompressing step for decompressing a particular attribution record group, which includes a target record to be retrieved, when a retrieve request for retrieving the target record from the database file is received.

24-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently amended) A method of managing database according to claim 19, wherein the data compressing step further compresses a specific record string, which appears in the plural attribution record groups more frequently ~~compared to the~~ than other record ~~string~~ strings, to reduce a size of the plural attribution record groups.

30.-40. (Canceled)

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41. (New) A database managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the database comprises a phone number database used in a navigation system.

42. (New) A method of managing a database according to claim 19, wherein the file forming step is for forming a phone number database used in a navigation system.

43. (New) A database managing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising data decompressing means for initially decompressing the search key attribution record group prior to the others of the plural attribution record groups in response to a system search request.

44. (New) A database managing apparatus according to claim 43, further comprising report generating means for generating a report indicating when a matching record does not exist in the others of the plural attribution record groups subsequent to the data decompressing means initially decompressing the search key attribution record group.

45. (New) A database managing apparatus according to claim 44, further comprising a display in communication with the report generating means for displaying the report generated by the report generating means.

46. (New) A method of managing a database according to claim 19, further comprising a searching step for initially decompressing the search key attribution record group prior to

decompressing the others of the plural attribution record groups in response to a system search request.

47. (New) A method of managing a database according to claim 44, further comprising a report generating step for generating a report indicating when a matching record does not exist in the others of the plural attribution record groups subsequent to the searching step.

48. (New) A method of managing a database according to claim 47, further comprising a displaying step for displaying the report generated by the report generating step.